

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 AID-05 PC-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/EP:JFKING:BT

APPROVED BY ARA/LA/EP:JFKING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC

SUBJECT: LONGSHOREMAN'S BOYCOTT OF ECUADOREAN GOODS

REF: 1273

NOT MUCH WE CAN TELL YOU OF BOYCOTT ACTIVITIES, WHICH FROM
HERE LOOK LIKE MUCH PUBLICITY AND LITTLE, IF ANY, CONCRETE
ACTION. WE WILL MONITOR SITUATION AS CLOSELY AS WE CAN,
GIVEN FACT LOCUS OF ACTIVITY WILL BE WEST COAST, AND KEEP
YOU INFORMED, BUT THERE ARE A FEW FACTUAL MATTERS TO KEEP
IN MIND OVER NEXT FEW DAYS.

1. THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO PICKETING OR OTHER
DISRUPTION OF ECUADORIAN COMMERCE TO DATE THAT WE CAN
LEARN OF.

2. SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF ILWU, INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE-
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MEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION, WHICH CONTROLS WEST COAST

LONGSHOREMEN AND WHICH HAS SAN DIEGO AFFILIATE SERVING INTERESTS OF TUNA FISHERMEN, TELLS US FOLLOWING:

A. LAST WEEKEND, AT INSTIGATION SAN DIEGO FISHERMEN'S AFFILIATE, ILWU CAUCUS MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO ADOPTED MOTION CALLING ON PARENT UNION, WORKING WITH OTHER NATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (AFL-CIO, TEAMSTERS, ETC.)

QUTOE TO ENTEND SUCH SUPPORT AS IT CAN UNQUOTE TO BOYCOTT OF GOODS COMING FROM AND GOING TO ECUADOR, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

B. HARRY BRIDGES, ILWU CHIEF, UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER, ONE TEDDY GLEASON, HEAD OF ILA (INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, WHICH CONTROLS LONGSHORE LABOR ON ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST). OUR SOURCE SAYS HE BELIEVES ILA'S INTEREST IN BOYCOTT MARGINAL AT BEST.

C. JOHN ROYAL, HEAD OF THE SMALL ILWU FISHERMAN'S AFFILIATE, IS PRINCIPAL ACTOR IN KEEPING BOYCOTT STORY ALIVE. HE PRESENTLY IS SAID TO BE IN MIAMI BEACH AT ANNUAL AFL-CIO CONVENTION DRUMMING UP SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORT. HIS ALLY MAY BE AFL-CIO'S MARITIME AFFILIATE, THE SIU (SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, HEADED BY PAUL HALL, WHO HAS ALREADY CALLED ON PRESIDENT FORD TO TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES TO EXTRICATE TUNABOATS). IT IS NOT KNOWN IF SIU WILL BECOME ACTIVE IN ENLISTING WIDER AFL-CIO SUPPORT, NOR FOR THAT MATTER WHAT EFFECT HEIGHTENED ACTIVITY WILL PRODUCE.

3. OUR SOURCE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT ILWU HAS CONTRACT WITH PMA (PACIFIC MARITIME ASSOCIATION, WEST COAST SHIPPING MANAGEMENT GROUP) WHICH SPELLS OUT IN DETAIL WHAT IS AN AUTHORIZED WORK STOPPAGE AND WHAT IS NOT. HE WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC BUT CLEARLY INDICATED CONTRACT PROVISIONS WOULD INHIBIT ACTION AGAINST ECUADORIAN COMMERCE ON WEST COAST DOCKS.

4. REGRET THIS INFORMATION SO FRAGMENTARY BUT ALL WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOW ARE PRESS RELEASES BY ROYAL AND ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCING BOYCOTT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. OUR SENSE AT MOMENT IS THAT ROYAL, WHEN HE RETURNS TO SAN DIEGO FROM MISSION TO MIAMI BEACH, MAY SUCCEED IN GETTING PICKETS OUT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PORTS. BUT EVEN THIS BECOMES PROBLEM-ATICAL AS MORE BOATS ARE RELEASED AND ISSUE HOPEFULLY DEFUSES ITSELF.

5. IN ANY CASE WE SHOULD RECALL THAT 1972 BOYCOTT OF ECUADORIAN SHIPPING LASTED LESS THAN A WEEK AND BY ACCOUNT OF THOSE WHO REMEMBERED IT WAS NO GREAT ISSUE, AT LEAST HERE. WE SHOULD ALSO RECALL THAT BRIDGES AND ILWU SOME MONTHS BACK CALLED TWO-DAY BOYCOTT OF CHILEAN GOODS TO PROTEST PRESENT REGIME IN SANTIAGO. PROSCRIBED CARGO WAS RITUALLY SHIFTED AROUND AND THEN OFFLOADED AFTER SUITABLE 48-HOUR PERIOD, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE BY ANYBODY.

6. WE ARE NOT SAYING THERE WILL BE NO BOYCOTT. IT JUST LOOKS SOMEWHAT VAPOROUS AT THIS POINT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SURVEY SITUATION AND KEEP YOU ADVISED.

7. FYI, AMBASSADOR CARDENAS CALLED TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN AND SEEK INFO ABOUT BOYCOTT AND WE SHARED WITH HIM GENERAL OUTLINE OF FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MONITORING, REPORTS, LONGSHOREMEN, BOYCOTTS, DURABLE GOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE040437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFKING:BT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750063-0289
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750221/aaaaaslc.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 1273
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LONGSHOREMAN'S BOYCOTT OF ECUADOREAN GOODS
TAGS: ELAB, EFIS, EC
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006